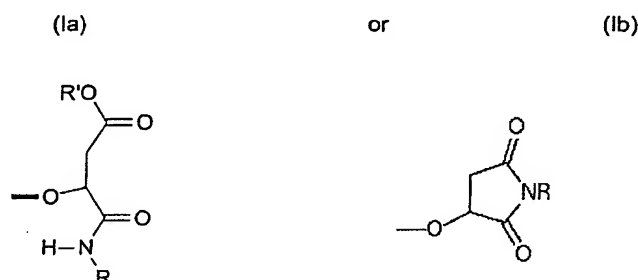


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A polysaccharide derivative consisting of a bio-polysaccharide backbone and organic radicals having a molecular weight < 5000 bound thereto via ether bridges, in which the organic radicals have the general formulae (Ia) or (Ib)



where R is a C₆₋₂₄-alkyl group and R' is H, a C₁₋₃₀-alkyl radical or a cation.

2. (Original) The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the biopoly-saccharide consists of α - or β -(1,4)- and/or α - or β -(1,3)-glucan units.
3. (Currently Amended) The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 2~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the biopoly-saccharide has glucose, mannose, xylose, galactose, guluronic acid, mannuronic acid and/or galacturonic acid units.
4. (Currently Amended) The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the biopoly-saccharide is a xyloglucan, glucomannan, mannan, galactomannan, α - or β -(1,3),(1,4)-glucan, glucurono-, arabino- or glucuronoarabinoxylan and, in particular, guar gum, locust bean gum, xanthan gum, carrageenan, alginates, pectins, starch, cellulose and derivatives thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polysaccharide derivative as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharide is reacted under base catalysis with N-(C₆₋₂₄-)alkylmaleamic acid or a salt thereof, where optionally the carboxylic acid function of the maleamide component, before or after the reaction, is esterified with an alcohol R'-OH, where R' = C₁₋₃₀-alkyl.
6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the N-alkylmaleamide has been obtained from a fatty acid amine of the general formula R-NH₂, where R = C₆₋₂₄-alkyl, and maleic anhydride.
7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~either claim 5 or 6~~ Claim 5, characterized in that the maleamide component has been cyclized to the maleimide derivative before the reaction with the polysaccharide.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 to 7~~ Claim 5, characterized in that the maleamide component is cyclized to the succinimide derivative after the reaction with the polysaccharide.
9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 5 to 8~~ Claim 5, characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative, after addition of the organic radical has been performed, is precipitated out, preferably using a mineral acid.
10. (Currently Amended) The use of the polysaccharide derivative as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 for binding to cellulose fibers.
11. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 10 for textile treatment.
12. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~either claim 10 or 11~~ Claim 10 as biodegradable fabric softener.